GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
DIPLOMATIC GIFTS OF WILDLIFE
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of endangered species of wildlife are being given away as diplomatic gifts;

(b) if so, the details of protected wildlife given as diplomatic gifts to other countries during the last three years as well as current year and the names of the countries to whom these were given;

(c) the details of such gifts received by the country during the same period; and

(d) the reasons behind such a policy/practice?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the wild animals/birds given as diplomatic gifts to other countries are as under:

YEAR OF APPROVAL ANIMAL GIVEN (male:female) RECIPIENT COUNTRY
1999-2000 4 Peafowl (2:2)

1 Elephant (0:1) Bangladesh
Japan
2000-2001 2 Royal bengal tigers (1:1) Libya
2001-2002 1 Elephant (0:1) Morocco
2002-2003 None N/A

(c) No wild animals have been received as diplomatic gift during last three years and the current year.

(d) Diplomatic gift of animals is given as goodwill gesture on the recommendations of the Diplomatic mission/Ministry of External Affairs. The proposal is examined in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and an animal(s) to be gifted is/are identified from the surplus stock with zoos or elephant camps.